



From the corner

The TDCAA helps all of us



As the largest county attorney's office in the State of Texas, our Office has a long history working with the Texas District and County Attorneys Association dating back to its formation in 1970. We were particularly active in working with the organization in the 1980s by encouraging emphasis on the civil law aspects of District and County Attorneys Offices.

The TDCAA is a non-profit organization based in Austin serving the people who work in the district and county attorneys offices around the state by producing continuing legal education courses, providing technical assistance, and by providing networking opportunities. Many of our Assistant County Attorneys are known throughout the state as experts in their fields because of their presentations and participation at TDCAA conferences.

The 2012 Annual Criminal and Civil Law Update will be held September 19th-21st at the South Padre Island Convention Center. Laura Cahill and Michael Hull from our Office will be among the presenters.

We encourage all attorneys and investigators to take advantage of our memberships in the TDCAA and attend these training conferences. Please check with your supervisor and sign up. [Click here](#) for the details. - Vince

Happy Anniversary!

Thank you for your service to the public:

Frances Smith	7 years
Harvey Johnson	8 years
Francie Aguirre	11 years
Mary Baker	16 years
Marva Gay	17 years



- Sep. 3 Labor Day
- Sep. 6 Time sheets due
- Sep. 11 Commissioners Court meets
- Sep. 13 [County Wellness Screening](#)
- Sep. 13 CLE: Civil Actions Help Reduce Crime, Driscoll Courtroom
- Sep. 18 CLE: You've Got Style, The County Attorney Style Manual, Driscoll Courtroom
- Sep. 19-21 [TDCAA Update](#), South Padre Island
- Sep. 27 CLE: Sexually Oriented Business Regulations, Driscoll Courtroom

County offers wellness screenings

[Annual Wellness Screenings](#) begin September 13th and are available to employees covered by Harris County Medical Insurance. Your attendance at the screening may be counted as work time, provided you have advance approval from your supervisor.

Is there life on MaRS?



The County Attorney MaRS Unit includes Frederick Lenz, Evelyn Washington, Harvey Johnson, Darlene Hadaway, and Elise Leger.

Located in the disk-shaped office on the 16th floor, at 1019 Congress the MaRS (Mail, Redaction, Scanning) unit may be alien to many of you. The people in MaRS work quietly, hovering under radar, performing tasks that make your jobs easier. There are reported sightings of them darting between the courthouses, Sheriff's Office and other county departments, carrying documents to be filed, delivered or retrieved. Using redaction and scanning skills, they are particularly adept at making paper files vanish. Their imaging of incoming mail is critical to communication. If you need help with court filings, copying, scanning, redacting or mailing, contact Darlene Hadaway or the CAO Help Desk.

Douglas Ray, J.D., M.A., A.C.A., C.I.O., etc.

Senior Assistant County Attorney Douglas Ray is one of eighteen Harris County employees who recently earned the designation of certified County Investment Officer (CIO) from the Texas Association of Counties (TAC). The County Investment Officer (CIO) award is a professional credential presented to an elite county officials and employees who receive 40 hours of formal classroom instruction, successfully complete a comprehensive examination and continue to advance their professional competency through on-going education. Doug earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Texas in 1982. He joined the Office of the Harris County Attorney in 2003.



Case Management for Litigation Group



An updated case management system is now on line for the Litigation Practice Group. Assistant County Attorney Clyde Leuchtag and Chief of Staff Robert Soard have been working to streamline and add functions to the various case management systems throughout the Office. The system combines document imaging, case tracking, and document generation. Contact Robert or Clyde to report bugs and errors.



WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE HARRIS COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, BOTH LAWYERS AND NON-LAWYERS, ADHERE TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL ETHICS AS WE SERVE THE PEOPLE OF HARRIS COUNTY AND STRIVE TO BE THE BEST PUBLIC LAW FIRM IN THE UNITED STATES.



Commissioner Radack goes to Metro [Chron.com](#)
County: low impact development for roads [Chron.com](#)
More California cities at risk of bankruptcy [AP](#)
CAC has new video [Giving Library](#)
County home values stable [Chron.com](#)
Rusty Hardin, a lifetime in court [New York Times](#)



"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."
--Aristotle.

Lorna Jones helps HCHD with Grand-Aides



Assistant County Attorney Lorna Jones has been working with Harris County Hospital District staff to develop a program under a \$1.25 million state grant to utilize the Grand-Aides program. Grand-Aides are health care professionals operating under the supervision of nurses and physicians, who are trained and equipped to make home visits to patients who might otherwise be seen in emergency rooms and clinics. Pilot programs would have averted 62 percent of drop-in visits at one Houston area clinic and eliminated 74 percent of emergency department visits at a Harrisonburg, Virginia test site. The estimated cost of a Grand-Aides visit is \$16.88 per encounter compared with Medicaid payments of \$200 per clinic visit. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Grand-Aides Foundation.

HCAO welcomes new TSU law students



Assistant County Attorney Renee Lowe

County Attorney Vince Ryan and Assistant County Attorney Renee Lowe spoke to about 200 students entering the Thurgood Marshall School of Law on Wednesday, August 15th as part of the new student orientation program. Vince and Renee spoke on the importance of public service; Renee is a 1998 graduate of Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Debbie Dillard attended and helped coordinate this event.

Revised federal rules proposed

The Judicial Conference

Advisory Committees on Appellate, Bankruptcy, Criminal, and

Evidence Rules have proposed amendments to their respective rules and forms, and requested that the proposals be circulated to the bench, bar, and public for comment. The proposed amendments, Rules Committee reports explaining the proposed changes are posted [here](#).

Office transfers improve service



Jennifer Matte



Steven Dieu



Marc Ritter

Assistant County Attorney Jennifer Matte has transferred from the Protective Services-Family Practice Group to the Environmental Public Infrastructure Group to assist with the growing case load. Steven Dieu who has been serving as Chief of the 314th Court Team is moving to the Family Practice Group to be assigned to one of the Family Law Courts. Marc Ritter has been named as the new chief of the 314th Court team.

CLE Committee sets September classes

The Harris County Attorney's CLE Committee has announced in house training courses for the month of September:

- *Nuisance Abatement and How Communities Can Use Civil Actions to Help Reduce Crime* presented by Laura Cahill at 2:00 pm, Thursday, September 13th, Driscoll Court Room
 - *You've Got Style* about clear writing and the *Texas Law Review's Manual on Usage and Style* presented by Mary Baker and Lisa Hulsey at 1:30 pm, Tuesday, September 18th, Driscoll Court Room
 - *Get that SOB!* about the County's proposed Sexually Oriented Business Regulations presented by Trevor Smith at 1:30 pm on Thursday, September 27th, Driscoll Court Room
- Any employee may attend with supervisor approval.



Useful Links

County Attorney [SharePoint](#)

County Attorney [Policy Manual](#)

County Personnel [Regulations](#)

County Attorney [Website](#)

Payroll reports & benefits [on-line](#)

County Attorney [Directory](#)